

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS OF 20 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will enable all citizens of this country to be eligible to hold the Office of President. No citizen should be denied the opportunity to seek the nation's highest office. The proposal that I am introducing will allow foreign-born individuals who have been citizens of this country for at least 20 years to be eligible for this office.

As you know, Article II of the Constitution of the United States provides that only natural-born citizens are entitled to hold the Office of President. I believe that this limitation contradicts the principles for which this country stands. This nation prides itself on its diversity of culture, experience, and opinion. This quality is achieved only by welcoming immigrants to this country, allowing them to become citizens, and enabling them to make full contributions to society.

For the most part, the United States treats its citizens, those natural-born and foreign-born, the same. However, when determining who is eligible for the Office of President, this country unfairly distinguishes between the two. Allowing the United States to be a better country because of the contributions that foreign-born citizens make, and then not allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of society, is un-American.

As you may also know, some of our country's foreign-born citizens are our country's greatest public servants. There are also 700 foreign-born citizens who have received the Medal of Honor. It is unjust to deny citizens that have risked their lives for this country the chance to become President of the United States as well. A 2002 Pentagon study reports that more than 30,000 foreign-born citizens are currently serving in the U.S. military.

I realize that constitutional amendments are rare and that those proposed should be subject to great scrutiny. I truly respect one of the documents on which our country was founded, the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, it is after great consideration and with the utmost gravity, that I introduce this proposal today. I am hopeful that my fellow colleagues in Congress will properly consider the proposed amendment and realize that every citizen of the United States should be entitled to dream of becoming President.

TRIBUTE TO HON. BOB STUMP

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, George Washington said, "It should be the

highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be coextensive with the world."

Bob Stump, a beloved Arizonan and a champion of liberty, extended his gallant views beyond himself and furthered the cause of American freedom in this country and throughout the world.

As a courageous soldier in our Nation's armed forces, Bob exemplified the kind of impassioned and steadfast patriotism that every true American dreams to be.

Serving 26 years as a Member of Congress, Bob Stump left us all a policy legacy of a stronger and more secure America. He also left us a rich personal legacy. Bob was a servant-leader and a man of great personal decency. He was a man who desperately loved and cherished his family. He was also a man of deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ. And now he has walked hand-in-hand with his Savior across the threshold of eternity and stepped into the light of everlasting victory.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Bob Stump's conduct indeed affected his country in a profound way. I am so very honored today to pause with Arizonans, and Americans everywhere, to pay tribute to this true American hero.

And to Bob Stump, from all of us, I would simply say, "Rest easy, gentle warrior. Thank you for passing this way and walking so kindly and so nobly among us. We shall never forget you."

POW BACK PAY BILL

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in times of war our veterans and their families make sacrifices. The prisoners of war during WWII made great sacrifices, and were not always shown the gratitude they deserve. These American heroes, lost through the passage of time, have been denied the pay that their rank entitled them to for more than 50 years. It is time to stamp "paid in full" on this forgotten debt.

I would especially like to honor Dr. David Kliwer, a veteran from Corvallis, OR, who brought this issue to my attention. Dr. Kliwer is a remarkable man who voluntarily joined the Marines in 1939 as a Marine Corps Aviator. He was a POW in the South Pacific, and was promoted to the rank of Major while held in a Japanese POW camp. While imprisoned, he applied and was accepted to Harvard Medical School.

This bill would allow certain forgotten Navy and Marine Corps veterans who were POWs during World War II to collect back pay related to their promotions. These veterans were selected for advancement during their internment, but were unable to receive their promotion or the increase in pay that they were due. This bill corrects this oversight, and ensures that these brave soldiers, sailors, and

airmen receive the full amount of back pay they deserve, in dollars adjusted for inflation.

This bill is of considerable importance not just to the surviving veterans, but to the widows who survived their husbands as well. These women, many of whom may not be in a position to meet their needs, have earned and deserve the benefit of this legislation. We must make up this inequity and keep our promise to our Nation's veterans.

I am proud to have introduced this bill in the House of Representatives, and urge my colleagues to join me in correcting this injustice in full. To do otherwise not only devalues the service of these veterans of so long ago, but shows a callous disregard for the men and women of our Armed Forces currently in harm's way in Iraq. I hope that both houses can quickly pass this legislation, and look forward to watching President Bush sign this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL MARK ANTHONY BIBBY UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today and honor Corporal Mark Anthony Bibby of the United States Army. On July 21, 2003, Corporal Bibby was killed in the line of duty while serving the people of this great Nation in Iraq.

Mark Bibby was a soldier, who, after serving 4 years in the U.S. Army, joined the Reserves so that he could continue his devoted service to our Nation while earning his degree. His educational aspirations were put on hold as he was once again called to serve his country, ensuring that the freedoms the United States holds dear are protected.

Corporal Bibby's love for his fellow man and for the values this Nation holds dear, and his life's commitment to defending those values can best be described by three simple, but profound words: spirit, service, sacrifice.

It was Corporal Bibby's spirit that made him the man that he was—a spirit that recognized and honored values beyond the material, temporal, and physical things of this world. Corporal Bibby's unselfish and unabated service was reflected in his strong work ethic, his strong sense of patriotism, and his strong love for God, his family, and his country. With a strong spirit and unwavering service, Corporal Bibby made the ultimate sacrifice. He risked his life to ensure the safety of others. His valiant actions demonstrated that he knew that freedom is not free. His sacrifice was rich in integrity and reminds us of the gratitude we, as citizens of this great Nation, should have toward him and toward all of our servicemen and women.

We owe Corporal Bibby our sincere appreciation for his years of committed service to our Nation. His devotion to the people of the United States should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless his family, and may God bless this great Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUDDICK TROWBRIDGE POST NO. 73 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Ruddick Trowbridge Post No. 73 of the American Legion, based in Monticello, New York, which is commemorating the 80th Anniversary of their Post. It is with great pleasure that I join the Post in honoring their present and former commanders and auxiliary presidents on the occasion of this significant milestone.

Named in honor of Ruddick Trowbridge, who was killed in action during World War I in France on August 10, 1918, the Ruddick Trowbridge Post was established in 1923, when its first commander, Sylvester Smith, entered office. The Post was later chartered on June 7, 1930. Since the Post was established, forty-five men have served as commander.

The Ruddick Trowbridge Post has continued to work to ensure that the tremendous contributions and sacrifices made by this nation's veterans are remembered and recognized. In addition, the Post has maintained an active role in the community. The Post has provided scholarships to deserving local students, recognized scouts for their achievements, donated flags to community organizations and municipal governments, and honored deceased veterans by decorating their graves. The Post also holds and participates in ceremonies for Memorial Day, National POW/MIA Day in September and Veterans Day.

As part of the American Legion, which boasts a membership of more than three million veterans and currently includes approximately fifteen thousand posts worldwide, the Ruddick Trowbridge Post has actively promoted the values and focus on community service that define the American Legion organization. I am proud to express my appreciation and great respect to the members of the Post for their distinguished record of service to this great nation as well as the significant contributions they have made to our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to submit these remarks in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the Ruddick Trowbridge Post No. 73 of the American Legion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday July 25, 2003, I had to return to Houston for urgent business, and missed a number of votes.

I would like the RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 447, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 448, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 449, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 450, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 451, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 452, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 453, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 454, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 455, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 456, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 457, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 458, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 459, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FOR REACHING 100,000 MEMBERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the Missouri Farm Bureau for reaching an all-time membership high of 100,000 Missourians. During the last decade, Missouri Farm Bureau membership has grown steadily and will exceed 100,000 by the end of its membership year on August 31, 2003.

Missouri Farm Bureau was first organized in 1915 and was the first such state Farm Bureau to be organized in the Nation. Today, Missouri Farm Bureau is the state's largest farm organization and has offices in each of Missouri's 115 counties. Missouri Farm Bureau also plays an integral role in working with its partners around the country as a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Through the years, Missouri Farm Bureau members have worked to develop grassroots agriculture policy. Their advice is critical to Members of Congress' developing an agriculture strategy that will most benefit Missouri producers. Reaching a milestone of 100,000 members is truly an outstanding accomplishment and is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of Farm Bureau leaders throughout the Show Me State.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Missouri Farm Bureau President Charlie Kruse and all 100,000-plus members of this farm organization for their work on behalf of American agriculture. I know that all my House colleagues will join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

UN CAN PICK UP PIECES IF U.S. WILL LET IT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, upon my return to the United States after a

week in the Republic of Cape Verde, which is the ancestral home of many of my constituents, I was pleased to read that the President, in a long overdue move, is seriously thinking about significant UN involvement in our administration of Iraq. Unfortunately, both past history and the description of current efforts fail to give me confidence that the administration is ready to do this in the serious way that is required for success.

The importance of this being done appropriately was recently underlined in an extremely cogent article from one of our most experienced foreign policy experts. Jonathan Moore is a man who began his career working as a key aide to the late Eliot Richardson, himself one of the most distinguished and thoughtful practitioners of foreign policy in recent history. Jonathan Moore has broad firsthand experience in international affairs, and has also been a thoughtful scholar. He served America at the UN under President George H.W. Bush, and he is now an advisor to the UN Development Program on Post Conflict Reconstruction. On Tuesday, August 26, as I was leaving the country, I read the attached article by him in the Boston Globe and I was struck by how well he put the case. As might already be clear from his having begun his work with Eliot Richardson, Jonathan Moore's active political career was as a Republican, which is relevant only to refute any suggestion that there is even the slightest hint of partisanship in his strong critique of the administration.

Few Americans have earned a right to a hearing on this subject more than Jonathan Moore, and I know of no one who has made the case for the appropriate policy to be followed in this difficult situation more cogently. I ask that Jonathan Moore's incisive article be printed here, and I earnestly hope that the administration will heed him.

[From the Boston Globe, Aug. 26, 2003]

UN CAN PICK UP PIECES IN IRAQ IF U.S. WILL LET IT

In the aftermath of last Tuesday's bombing of United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, the United States finds itself in a terrible bind largely of its own making.

Following the successful fighting and takeover, the United States held the initiative as it turned to the immediate postwar challenges of occupation: establishing security, tending to humanitarian relief, getting basic public services functioning, and undertaking efforts to build a democratic nation and to begin serious reconstruction. Now the momentum may have shifted against the United States, putting it in a perilous position.

In all the time building up to the war, the United States insisted on its objective of regime change and its vision of a stable, democratic Iraq exerting a salutary influence on peace and progress in the Middle East. The problem is that the administration did not heed sensible, professional warnings of the inherent dangers and obstacles that would be faced and cautions about the enormous investments that would be required to pull it off. Instead, the administration proceeded by itself in an arrogant and ill-prepared manner.

While the problems the United States has encountered since the war was declared over could not have been predicted with certainty (and who would have wanted to), some were probable, all were possible, and none, even occurring together, should have come as a surprise.

Two factors in the current situation are predominant: establishing and maintaining security in Iraq and the role of the United